

97 of 78

SPOT REPORT

SUBJECT: SSCI Request to Declassify Testimony Related to Panama

Bob Beckel at the White House called again. The meeting was slipped until Monday, no time set yet.

- Topic was raised as a possible troublesome issue with the President.
- Much staff work needs to be done before the President and top officials, such as yourself, get involved.
- Executive Branch agencies are to come up with their suggested deletions and substitute unclassified characterizations.
- Beckel generally leaning against release of report since he does not believe that sanitized version will satisfy cynics.
- I reminded him of accommodation the Executive Branch was able to make on the Micronesia report even though we were not entirely happy with the final results although they were accommodating on the sources and methods problem.
- I stressed the dilemma we face if we do not come up with a suitable alternative that can be released:
 - (1) Secret session of the Senate to go over the entire classified report which increases risks of leakage of sensitive sources.
 - (2) Undercutting the efforts of the SSCI to be the exclusive investigator of sensitive intelligence activities (Allen subpoena initiative, etc.)

SECRET

-- I suggest perhaps the very length of the testimony creates somewhat of a problem in suggesting that something is there when the bottom line of the testimony is that neither the [] had any bearing on the negotiations.

-- I recommended fast action back to SSCI to show Executive Branch willingness to come up with something on a day certain as best way to determine less attractive alternatives.

cc:
DCI
A/DDCI
Ambassador Carlucci
SA/DO/O

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

Acting Legislative Counsel

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

9 February 1978

STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

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A/DDCI

9 FEB 1978

Registry

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Director

(FYI)

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